

## LPMGA SOCIAL

Wednesday

December 2, 2015 - 6pm

Petroleum Club

## LPMGA BOARD

### MEETING

1 PM MONDAY,

DECEMBER 14, 2015

IRA NELSON HORTICULTURE  
CENTER (INHC)

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Gerald's Corner—2
- School Garden Initiative/  
Jr. Master Gardeners—3
- Fall Recap—4
- What Plant am I? —5
- Azalea Trail—5
- Between the Rows—6
- Vive Versailles!—7
- December Calendar—8

### 2015 BOARD:

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**Janet Ryland 2014**

❄️ The December Social will be held Wednesday, December 2 from 6-9 pm at the Petroleum Club. The deadline for reservations and payment is November 25! Hors d'oeuvres make the rounds from 6 to 6:45, followed by the graduation ceremony for the 2015 LPMGA class at 6:45. The buffet dinner will be 7:30—9 pm. The 2015 Outstanding Master Gardener will also be announced at this festive occasion. ❄️

“In the Garden” will air live at noon on December 3 on AOC. The topic for December’s show is “Gifts for your Favorite Gardener.”

Remember that the 2016 LSU “Get it Growing” Garden calendars make great gifts! The cost per calendar is \$10 for LPMGA members and \$12 to the public. Contact Linda Alesi at [jalesi@bellsouth.net](mailto:jalesi@bellsouth.net) for more information. ❄️

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Great things are happening for the Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners. How many were present at the talk by M. Alain Baraton at the Petroleum Club on Tuesday 17 November? Wasn't it interesting? And the convivium hosted by May and Roger Waggoner was lovely. (Convivium is a feast – aka potluck – new word.) I believe that we showed true Louisiana gardener hospitality to M. Baraton. Thanks to everyone who participated in the planning and execution of this event.

We welcome our new Master Gardeners whose last day of class is Thursday, 19 November. Congratulations! And we welcome our new board of officers as well. Their success is integral to our success

as an organization. Let's support our new members and our new board and the organization that they are charged with leading.

The Cuisine de Jardins event was a success for the children and for the program. I know that the SGI Master Gardener mentors were all proud, both for the excellent dishes and the knowledge and effort that the children invested in their school entries. In addition, Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners received the Schools of Choice Community Partner of the Year Award from the Lafayette Parish School System for the School Garden Initiative. Kudos to those members who work so hard to teach our children the fundamentals of gardening and nutrition. We are so proud of you.

Don't forget that dues are due by the end of December. And your volunteer and continuing education hours must all be added to the LSU system by that date as well. (One of my New Year's resolutions will undoubtedly be to keep up with volunteer hour reporting!)

Our December social and graduation ceremony will take place on Wednesday, December 2 2015 at 6 PM at the Petroleum Club. We will also honor three of our members who have attained sustaining member status. I hope you will come out to join us as we celebrate another successful year of gardening and providing community education about gardening.

Keep it green!  
Heather

## GERALD'S CORNER

Hello Master Gardeners,

For this month's horticulture article I'd like to share information regarding timely issues in home landscapes as evidenced by the calls and emails I'm currently getting from gardeners. In the Fall of the year — especially if we have a lot of rain — we get numerous calls regarding brown patch disease in lawns. Even though brown patch disease can be problematic in other warm season turf grasses such as centipede and Bermuda, the majority of calls are regarding issues with St Augustine grass.

Brown Patch is a fungus disease caused by a pathogen called *Rhizoctonia solani*. It has been referred to as a spring-and-fall disease since it has a tendency to be more active when we have moderate temperatures (60 – 75 degrees) especially and high moisture. At 80 degrees and above, and under dry conditions, the activity of the fungus decreases significantly. Once temperatures begin to moderate in the fall the first indication of an infection in the lawn is a small-to-moderate irregular brown/tan circle which increases in diameter as temperatures moderate and rainfall increases. Within the circle there are green blades of grass among the tan straw colored grass.

Additionally the grass within the irregular brown circle can be pulled easily because it is rotted at the base. Once a lawn has a history of brown patch disease it is more likely to show up anytime temperatures moderate and there is high moisture. In St. Augustine the grass takes on a yellowish, yellow-orange color, in centipede it will lean more toward a purplish color. Once daytime temperatures reach 80 degrees F or above, even in the summer months there may be areas that get brown patch disease usually in shady areas under or next to trees or in enclosed back yards where there is little air movement. Issues that increase the incidence of brown patch are watering late in the afternoons which allows leaf blade to remain wet overnight. Applying fertilizer past the end of August or fertilizing before the first or second week in April can increase brown patch disease, and thus heavy thatch problems. When brown patch occurs, treat promptly with a fungicide containing one of the following active ingredients. The following fungicides are labeled to control brown patch diseases in lawn grasses, Myclobutanil (Ferti – lome F Stop, Green Light Fung Away, Spectracide Immunox), Thiophanate – Methyl (Ferti – lome Halt, Scott's Lawn Fungus Control, Southern Ag Systemic Fungicide), Triadimefon (formerly Bayleton, Bayer Advanced Fungus Control, High Yield Lawn Fungicide). Two applications 10 – 14 days apart provide the best control. On a personal note, let me emphasize that increased rainfall not only interferes with effectiveness of fungicides but it also increases fungus activity. Always follow label instructions in terms of safety, recommended rates and application.



The surge in popularity of citrus in home gardens is at an all-time high due to it being several years since we've experienced freeze intense enough to kill mature citrus trees. Satsuma is very popular due to the high quality that can be produced by homeowners and the ease at which they can be peeled because of their loose skin compared to sweet oranges. Keep in mind also that when the decision to plant citrus is made, cold hardiness must be a priority. Kumquats and Satsuma are the most cold hardy with Lemons and Lime being the least cold hardy. Sweet Oranges, Navel Oranges and Grapefruit fall somewhere in between Kumquats and Limes in terms of cold hardiness. One of the most common complaints that I get from homeowners is a condition referred to as puffy fruit in Satsumas. Puffy fruit are mostly a problem on young, vigorous growing Satsuma trees. These fruit are unusually large, have thick rinds and relatively dry flesh. As the tree becomes older, the occurrence of puffy fruit decreases. There is some thought that trees go through a juvenile stage and once passed this stage, fewer puffy fruit are produced. On older mature trees, even though it occurs a lot less, puffiness can occur, but these fruit are thought to be due to late blooms that set fruit during periods of warm weather. Although little can be done to prevent puffy fruit, good growing conditions, proper fertility, pest control, and time will help to reduce this condition. Two of the more popular types of Satsuma are Brown's Select, which begins ripening in mid-October, and Owari, which produces excellent quality fruit and begins ripening from early to mid-November. The fruit of Satsuma keeps well on the tree and can be picked and eaten over a three-to-four-week period and still maintain quality. However this year, I'm getting a lot of calls from homeowners saying the squirrels are damaging Satsuma on the tree.

A gardener had a question regarding sooty mold on gardenias. The question: "Since sooty mold is the result of sucking insects — in this case white flies producing honeydew that falls on the leaves giving rise to sooty mold growth—what is an effective material to control the whiteflies without harming butterflies, hummingbirds or lizards?"

Sooty mold grows on a variety of ornamental plants in home landscapes; it is non-parasitic and does not penetrate the plant tissue. Sooty mold does, however, prevent sunlight from reaching the leaves thus interfering with photosynthesis. It is a result of sucking insects, such as aphids, mealy bugs, scale and whiteflies, secreting honeydew. Horticultural oils are effective and non-toxic. These kill insects by coating and suffocating them. In this process, it is important to coat the surface and undersides of the leaves. Make three applications, carefully following rates and intervals on the label. It is generally recommended that treating every 10 – 14 days is effective. Also, horticultural oils do not leave behind any toxic residues that would negatively impact butterflies, hummingbirds or lizards. Happy Gardening!!

Gerald P. Roberts Horticulturist/Master Gardener Program Coordinator LSU AgCenter,  
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## SCHOOL GARDEN INITIATIVE / JR MASTER GARDENERS

### Green T. Lindon Elementary Wins Cook Off



# Meet the proud Green T. Lindon master chefs !!!

The second annual Cuisine du Jardin Cook Off was held Saturday, November 14, at the David Thibodeaux STEM Magnet Academy. The School Garden Initiative participants were Alice Boucher, Charles Burke, Green T. Lindon, Judice Middle and L. Leo Judice. Each school team consisted of three to four students, a guest chef, and a team leader. The goal of the cook off is to give students hands-on cooking experiences using vegetables from their own gardens. Each team presented a meal to the judges, who were dietitians Jennifer Windham, Celeste Hay, and Sheila Johnson. The winner this year was Green T. Lindon!!!! They prepared a cauliflower based pizza crust topped with vegetables. They worked with Chef Joy McCullen and team leader Marci Lee. Their meal will now be served in Lafayette Parish School cafeterias later this year. Second place winners were the Team from L. Leo Judice Elementary with Chef Mindy Pardos and team leader Paula Guidry. Third place winners were the team from Charles Burke Elementary with Chef Chris Lalonde and leader Pam Duhon. Elected officials who attended included Elroy Broussard, Brian Guidry, Britt Latiolais, Lauren Michel and Mary Morrison.

If you have never attended a school garden cook off, I highly recommend it. There is so much excitement among the children, healthy competition, team work, and wonderful smells! Try to attend next year! *Cindy Wiley*



## AG in the City brought to Opelousas elementaries

On November 10, Master Gardeners along with LSU Extension Agent Gerald Roberts participated in "Ag in the City" at the Northeast and Southwest Elementary schools of Opelousas. This is a program to introduce agriculture to young school children. Master Gardeners held six 15-minute sessions for grades 1 - 6 at each school. We had two teams assisting Gerald. The morning Master Gardener team included Heather Finley, Linda Beyt and Kay Hampton; the afternoon team included Mary Kramer, Mary Waguespack, Betty Haynes and Candy Bienvenu.

We taught the Junior Master Gardener activity "Nature's Web." This activity creates an understanding of the relationship of plants, animals, people and the environment by asking questions. All students are called upon to answer and once they answer, they are given a piece of string to hold to create a spider web and the students learn that all living things have a connection. Every living thing in nature plays a special role. The activity ends when the students are asked what happens if one part of the web is missing. As they answer the question the string is cut and they notice that the web is not as strong if even one part changed.

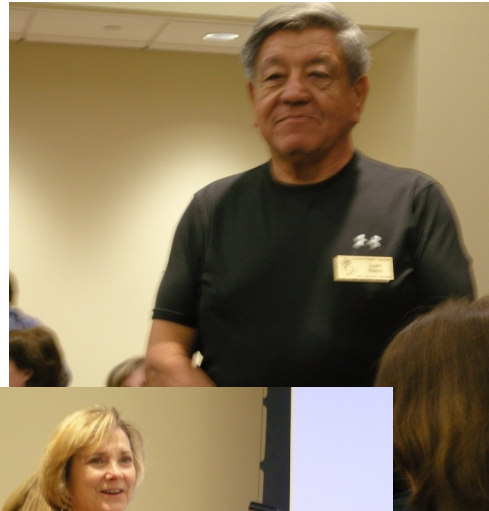
This is great activity since you can adapt the questions for the grade level being taught.





## FALL RECAP

Marcus Descant of the Urban Naturalist presented at the November meeting. For more information visit [theurbannaturalist.com](http://theurbannaturalist.com) or 216 Madison St. Lafayette.



Juan Nieto was approved by vote to be our 2016 Member at Large



Past president Babette Werner calls a vote to approve the 2016 slate of Master Gardener officers.

# Southern Garden Symposium in St. Francisville



Some of our members attended the symposium that took place October 1. Looks like lovely venue and some time for a little fun.



## IN APPRECIATION

## Everything's Coming Up Azaleas!!!



Scenic Lafayette, Louisiana's first affiliate of Scenic America, is happy to announce that the results of our fall campaign to revitalize the historic azalea trail in Lafayette have been overwhelming! Azalea Trail revitalization committee members, which include Master Gardener's Cindy Wiley and Cheryl Perret, have visited every home and most businesses on the "urban core" part of the historic trail, placing door hangers that encourage residents to plant azalea and preserve the old ones! On Friday, November 20, over 60 forty year old Formosa Azaleas were donated by a Youngsville resident, relocated by Scenic Lafayette and Keep Lafayette Beautiful, and planted on St Mary Blvd, Myrtle Place Elementary (by parent volunteers) and in Stirling Grove where an exciting revival of several old beautiful homes are now being restored! Stay tuned for Scenic Lafayette's spring campaign to bring a renewed interest in the trail as an important asset to Lafayette!

Sincerely,  
Cheryl Broussard Perret

Pine Straw  
Pick Up  
Extremely  
Successful

Wow! 550 bales in seven hours! A big THANK YOU to everyone who picked up on Friday to avoid Saturday's forecasted rains.

Mark your calendars to attend the September 2016 Master Gardener meeting to order next year's Fall pine straw sale. Also consider the Spring sale.

Thanks, Theresa Gore

I think I had the best time of all. Thanks to all of you who came brought food and wine and laughter and such a great spirit. Entertaining someone whose language isn't familiar is not an easy job, and you all conveyed with gestures and words and French (better than you think it was!) what we stand for and how we operate. Thanks so much! Jay, and Sandy, we missed you but will count on you for the next time! M. Alain Baraton had a great time!



Thank you note from May Wagoner regarding dinner at her home hosting Versailles' Gardener-in-Chief

## What Plant Am I?

I am a perennial, deciduous herb, native to Japan, China and the Appalachian mountains of the United States. I grow in moist, wooded mountainsides in colder regions, in shade to part shade. I am an understory plant nourished by the constant supply of organic material from upper story plants and consistent moisture. I don't like hot summers. (Sorry). I'm propagated by rhizomes, and can grow 12 to 24 inches, with a possible three-foot spread over time.

If grown in the ground in Zones 4 to 9, I should survive freezing temperatures if covered with a light layer of mulch. If container grown, bring me inside in the fall, and reduce watering as I go into my dormant period. Increase watering as spring approaches and acclimate me over several days before putting me outside. I'm low maintenance, but appreciate a little diluted plant food, and being deadheaded.

My foliage is bold and umbrella-like, and topped with small clusters of white flowers in late spring. The flowers have an amazing property: rain turns my white flowers transparent. They revert to white when they dry. ( See video on You-tube.) In late summer, my stalks of cobalt blue fruit replace my faded flowers. These fruits are said to be edible.

Do you know what plant I am?  
See page 7 for the answer

# BETWEEN THE ROWS

VEGETABLE GARDENING WITH  
MARY ANN ARMBRUSTER



The weather is getting a little cooler now, perfect for those winter crops. Things are slowing down now with the coming of winter. It's a great time to clean up debris, clean and repair tools, sort and clean seeds that you collected over the summer and other such maintenance chores.

There are a few little tools/tricks that I particularly like. One is a really easy method for oiling my tools. It's kind of a hassle to always have to get out the oil each time I finish using a tool; to make it easier, I keep a bucket of sand near where I store the tools. I poured oil – virtually any kind will work – over the sand until it's fully moistened. Then, when I'm finished using a tool, after cleaning it but before putting it away, I just drive it into the sand. It coats the tools thoroughly, and I'm ready to put it away all oiled and protected.

Another thing that I hate is tool handles that either are too slippery or ones that get damaged, making them splinter-y (is that a word?). Anyway, you know what I mean. To deal with these handles, I keep a roll of hockey tape around. The tape is really easy to use, the roll costs less than \$5 and it lasts. (I'm guessing at the price because I'm not sure of today's prices. I bought my roll in California, almost twenty years ago – see - it really does last!) The third is Velcro. Yes, Velcro - in a roll. You can buy small pieces of Velcro in garden centers for huge prices, or you can go to someplace that sells sewing supplies and get ten yards of a ¼-inch roll for about \$10-12. I use it for tying up plants mostly, but I've also used it to repair fences and hold up trellises. It's tough and it lasts, too. I've had it functioning in the weather for well over a year. The color fades, but the product is still there, little hooks holding on to little loops, holding together whatever I put it on. Anyway, give those a try and let me know what you think of them.

Speaking of letting me know, any time you have a question or suggestion related to something I say here, just drop me a line. My email is [maryann.armbruster@yahoo.com](mailto:maryann.armbruster@yahoo.com). Don't forget the DOT after maryann, if you forget, the email won't reach me.

Even if you did not ask, the answer is: Yes, you can plant in December. If you hurry, you can plant radishes and garlic through the first of the month, then you can plant mustard, spinach, shallots and turnips all month long. Wait until mid-December to plant English or sugar snap peas, and onions and leeks (from sets only, it's too late for seeds).

The varieties of mustard greens that are recommended for our area are Florida Broadleaf, Greenwave, Red Giant, Southern Giant Curled, Savannah and Tendergreen.

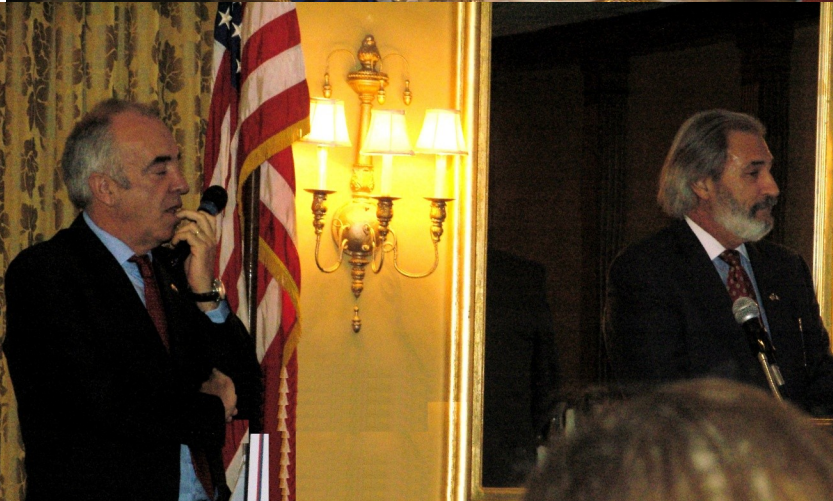
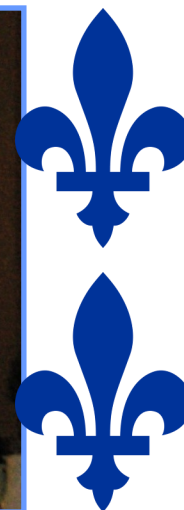
If you planted beets, carrots, radishes, turnips, rutabaga, kohlrabi or lettuces last month it's time to fertilize (3 to 4 weeks after planting). Use 4 to 5 pounds of 8-24-24 or 6 to 7 pounds of 8-8-8 fertilizer to side dress them. Remember that your garlic, onions and shallots need to be side dressed with 3 to 4 pounds of 8-24-24 or 4 to 5 pounds of 8-8-8. Remember, these recommendations are per 100 foot row. I hope you're enjoying the rain we're having now – and that it doesn't get carried away and cause flooding – I know the plants are.

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and I wish you all a safe, peaceful and blessed Christmas. See you next year.

Until then, good gardening!



## VIVE VERSAILLES FOR GARDENERS



The charm and humor shared with those who gathered at the Petroleum Club to hear and see the presentation by Monsieur Alain Baraton, Gardener-in-Chief of the Versailles gardens in France, brought a wealth of history, insights and laughter. Joey Durel, Lafayette Parish President and Master Gardener Class of 2012,

welcomed attendees with his vision for the Horse Farm and expressions of goodwill between Louisiana, the United States and France. In recognition of the existing dangers in Paris that erupted with attacks on November 13, we felt graced that our guests were able and willing to travel for their scheduled visit to Louisiana. M. Baraton's talk was translated by his interpreter, Christian Goudeau.

He joined approximately 30 guests in the home of our fellow Master Gardener May Waggoner, who said that she has often hosted gatherings in her home with guests bringing food to complement the evening. We hope that M. Baraton enjoyed his stay as much as those who had the good fortune to meet him, enjoyed his visit.



## WHAT PLANT AM I?

## ANSWER:

**Diphylleia grayi:**  
Skeleton flower,  
Umbrella plant



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# LPMGA Calendar December 2015

December 2: Christmas Social, Petroleum Club, 6 p.m.  
December 3: In the Garden broadcast, AOC, noon.  
Show topic: "Gifts for Your Favorite Gardeners"  
December 14: LPMGA Board meeting, Ira Nelson Center, 1 p.m.



Brock Barker gives a tour of the Brockoli Patch, his permaculture farm in Scott, to Vivian Katz and other Master Gardeners during the November Garden Stroll.



*Gardener's Gazette* is issued to all members of the Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners' Program. All members are encouraged to submit news, educational features, and photographs. The deadline for all submissions is the 17th of each month for publication in the next month's issue unless otherwise noted.

Please send newsletter items to:

Theresa Rohloff [thescottherald@aol.com](mailto:thescottherald@aol.com) Please include:

"MG NEWSLETTER" in your subject bar.

The Master Gardener program is a division of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Agency and can be contacted at:

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Please note: All meeting and event dates, times, and locations are subject to change.